

## Godly Examples with Godly Advice, Part 2 - Acts 18:24-25 – January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009

- Last week Paul ended his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey and in the next chapter will seamlessly begin what is called his 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey.
- However, before we rejoin Paul in chapter 19, it seems the Holy Spirit has deemed it necessary for Luke to introduce us to Apollos.
- In studying the book of Acts, we've been getting to know these people that we are reading about. They are real people becoming real.
- The more we get to know them, the more personable they become to us, in-so-much that they are really becoming good friends to us.
- They seemingly rise from the pages of scripture and say to us, they're here with us, as examples to us, and with good advice for us.
- This is part two of a study titled; "Godly Examples with Godly Advice." Last week Paul had some good and godly advice to and for us.
- Now we will look at what Apollos has to say by his example to us, and in his advice to us, were he to be our guest speaker today.

### 1. Be knowledgeable (Verse 24)

24 Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was **a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures.**

v24 We're told that Apollos was a Jew, who was a native of Alexandria, which would explain why he was so learned and knowledgeable.

- Alexandria, which is in Egypt, was, it isn't now, a magnificent city, and was actually the second largest city in the Roman Empire.
- Alexandria was the intellectual capital of the world at the time. Recent excavations have uncovered a library of 700,000 volumes.
- Alexandria was where the Hebrew Scriptures were translated into Greek in what is called the "Septuagint," meaning "70" in Latin.
- It's no wonder that Apollos was "a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures." After all, he was from Alexandria.
- So what's the point? Simply this; "it's both incumbent on us and absolutely vital for us, to learn and know God's Word."
- If Apollos were speaking here today this is what I believe he would have to say; "be knowledgeable!" The Proverbs are replete with this.

**Proverbs 23:12** Apply your heart to instruction, And your ears to words of knowledge. NKJV

### 2. Be exciting (Verse 25a)

25a He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he **spoke with great fervor...**

v25a Apollos spoke with great fervor, meaning that he boiled or bubbled over in the spirit. Apollos was enthusiastic, excited and exciting.

- I'm keenly aware, this may sound like one of those "be positive, be enthusiastic, and have a positive mental attitude" new age seminars.
- Let me hasten to say that his exciting enthusiasm wasn't manufactured. It was who and how he was, because he knew God's Word.
- Apparently, Apollos was so exciting and so charismatic that people were starting to carnally follow him, and Paul had to rebuke them.

**1 Corinthians 3:1-9** 1 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly-mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? 4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men? 5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe-as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. NIV

### 3. Be accurate (Verse 25b)

25b ...**and taught about Jesus accurately**, though he knew only the baptism of John.

v25b Goes on to tell us that Apollos taught about Jesus accurately, even though he only knew of the baptism of John.

- This is one of those places in the scriptures where we have a seemingly nebulous detail that at first doesn't have much importance.
- However, upon further examination and meditation, we should come to the realization that there is an application to our own situation.

- In other words, the accuracy in which Apollos taught was important enough for Luke, by the Holy Spirit, to mention it in his record.
- Here's the point; "we do err when we get sloppy, for lack of a better word, in our presentation of the gospel, and instruction in the Word."

**2 Timothy 2:15** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling the word of truth.** NASU

- This is of the utmost importance to me personally as a pastor and teacher. So much so, that I have created a template for my teaching.
- Actually, I use this template to take a "tally" of sorts before I teach from God's Word. I even use the word "tally" as an acronym.

**T** – True: Is the teaching true, is it truth?

**A** – Accurate: Are the references, quotes, information, etc. accurate?

**L** – Loving: Is the teaching one of God's love for us?

**L** – Liberating: Is the teaching free of legalism or does it lay a heavy burden on people?

**Y** – You: Is the teaching you? Has God ministered it "to" you, before He ministers it "through" you?